

Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Ave. Riverside, CA 92506
September 10, 2023 10 a.m.

Order of Worship

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "The Gift of Love" by Emma Lou Diemer / Robert Phillips, Organist

*TRINITY BELLS

***CHORAL INTROIT** "Psalm 100" by Jane M. Marshall / The Aldersgate Chorale (Directed by Yvonne Flagg; accompanied by Robert Phillips)

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Adapted from Psalm 149) / Loretta Cudney, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Sing a new song to God.

(People) Sing of light and hope.

(L) Dance with laughter and joy.

(P) Dance with hearts full of love.

(L) Rejoice with strings and drums.

(P) Rejoice with justice and peace.

(L) Sing a new song to God.

(All) Amen!

***OPENING HYMN: #2248** "Baptized in Water" by Michael Saward / Led by Kris Lovekin

Verse 1

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, cleansed by the blood of Christ, our King;
heirs of salvation, trusting his promise, faithfully now God's praise we sing.**

Verse 2

**Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, dead in the tomb with Christ, our King;
one with his rising, freed and forgiven, thankfully now God's praises we sing.**

Verse 3

Baptized in water, sealed by the Spirit, marked with the sign of Christ, our King; born of one Father, we are his children; joyfully now God's praises we sing.

WELCOME / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (Adapted from Matthew 18)

(Pastor) Set aside sorrow and past resentments. Embrace Christ's gift of healing and reconciliation as we share signs of peace with one another. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys & Concerns

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE (UNISON) (Adapted from Exodus 12, Romans 13, Matthew 18)

Ancient of days, we enter your presence to remember and rejoice. We come looking for your steadfast faithfulness and your loving care. May we be a people who seek reconciliation and genuine forgiveness with one another. In remembrance and gratitude for your mercy and your grace, we pray. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE: "This Is Our Prayer" by Sally Ahner

CHILDREN'S MOMENT / Lyn Knowles

***GOSPEL READING: John 6:51-58** (NRSV) / Liturgist

I Am the Living Bread

⁵¹ "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵² The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

(Liturgist) This is the Gospel of Christ!

(All) Glory to you, O Christ! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Blessed Be My Lord" by Douglas E. Wagner

SERMON: "THE BIBLE: THE HEART OF THE TRADITION" (Part IV) (Sermon Series #10, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION: #408 "The Gift of Love" by Hal Hopson / All**

Verse 1

**Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain,
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.**

Verse 2

**Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.**

Verse 3

**Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Adapted from Exodus 12, Romans 13) / Liturgist
(Liturgist) In Christ, all gifts are welcome, both great and small. Bathed in love, led by compassion, let us share our gifts and offerings with God.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to receive our offering.

OFFERTORY: "Versets on 'Bunessan'" by Richard Proulx

***DOXOLOGY: #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken / All**
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Adapted from Romans 13) / Led by Liturgist
**Receive these gifts as offerings of love, O God. Bless them with your grace, that
those who receive them may find compassion and hope. In Christ's name, we pray.
Amen.**

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #641 "Fill My Cup, Lord" by Richard Blanchard / All
Fill my cup, Lord. I lift it up, Lord.
Come and quench this thirsting of my soul.
Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more.
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.**

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (Adapted from Exodus 12, Matthew 18)
(Pastor) Just as God has called us here, God now sends us forth.
(People) Just as God has joined us here, God goes with us now.
(Pastor) Go with the power of God to love and serve the world.
(All) Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Toccata Perpetua" by Lani Smith

We are blessed by our worship leaders!

Organist: Robert Phillips

Liturgist: Loretta Cudney

Hymn Leader: Kris Lovekin

Introit/Anthem: The Aldersgate Chorale

Choir Director: Yvonne Flagg

Children's Moment: Lyn Knowles

Online Greeter: Mary Herrmann

Head Usher: Matt Gorder

Altar Décor: The Décor Team

Media/Livestream Team: Don Knowles,
Dan, Carmen, and Gayla Lonsbery

We are called to pray for:

Michael Thompson, Bob Bahnsen, Peggy Haught, Mary Boon,
Jim and Genette Sizer, Dianne Purkey, Pawar Singh, Amelia Nieto,
Allison George, Kim Austin, Jim Ashworth, the people of Ukraine and Maui

Families of: Velma Wellborn, Mary Strickler, Cynthia (Brockie) McKay,
Jim Fisher, Richard Beem

You are invited to submit names requesting prayers.
fumce@FirstChurchRiverside.org 951-683-7831



To receive information from the church,
(newsletters, prayer requests, event notifications, etc.),
please email fumc@FirstChurchRiverside.org
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This Week

Sunday, September 10

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Worship - "THE BIBLE: THE HEART OF THE TRADITION" (Part IV) (Sermon Series #10, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - **10 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- United Methodist Men Lunch/Program on Mental Health (Fellowship Hall) - **11 a.m.**

Monday, September 11 - 7 p.m.

- Trustees meeting (Zoom)
- Worship meeting (Zoom)

Tuesday, September 12 - 7 p.m.

- UWiF Lunch Bunch (Olive Garden) - **11 a.m.**
- SPRC meeting (Zoom) - **7 p.m.**
- Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **7 p.m.**

Wednesday, September 13

- Parents' Morning Out (Nursery) - **9 a.m.**
- The Response rehearsal (Sanctuary) - **6:30 p.m.**
- Bible Study ("The Bible Year") (Zoom) - **7 p.m.**

Thursday, September 14

- UWiF Bible Study (Zoom) - **6:45 p.m.**
- Aldersgate Chorale Rehearsal (Music Room) - **7 p.m.**

Friday, September 15 - 7 a.m.

- Men's Prayer Breakfast (Mary's Kitchen)

Saturday, September 16 - 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

- UWiF East District Event (Fellowship Hall and Sanctuary)

Sunday, September 17

- Youth Bell Rehearsal (Mary's Kitchen) - **9:30 a.m.**
- Family Sunday Worship with The Response - Sermon "**GOD: THE HEART OF REALITY" (Part I)** (Sermon Series #11, based on the book, *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J. Borg) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) - **10:00 a.m.**
- Children's Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) - **10:15 a.m.**
- Appetizer Lunch (Fellowship Hall) - **11 a.m.**

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